CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of installing components of a software product on a first network server device coupled to a network, the components of the software product providing the first network server device the capability to provide a first service to a plurality of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network, the method comprising:

automatically detecting with the first network server device a first set of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network that are eligible to use the first service;

automatically transmitting device information based on the detected server-assisted network devices to a second network server device;

receiving license information from the second network server device based on the transmitted device information; and

automatically installing components of the software product on the first network server device.

2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

automatically installing components of the software product on each server-assisted network device in the first set.

3. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

displaying an information screen identifying the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set.

4. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

displaying cost information based on the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the server-assisted network devices in the first set.

5. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

receiving payment information identifying a means of payment for use of the software product.

6. The method of claim 5, and further comprising:

automatically transmitting the payment information to the second network server device.

7. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

automatically storing at least a portion of the received license information on the first network server device.

8. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

automatically storing at least a portion of the received license information on each server-assisted network device in the first set.

9. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

automatically installing firmware on each server-assisted network device in the first set to support the first service.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein each server-assisted network device in the first set is one of a personal computer, printer, scanner, and a digital sender device.

11. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:

receiving device selection information from a user identifying server-assisted network devices in the first set that are to be provided the first service.

12. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

automatically installing components of the software product on each identified server-assisted network device.

13. The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

displaying cost information based on the number of identified server-assisted network devices, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the identified server-assisted network devices.

14. A network server device configured to facilitate the installation of components of a software product, the components of the software product providing the network server device the capability to provide a first service to a plurality of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network, the network server device comprising:

a controller configured to automatically detect a first set of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network that are eligible to use the first service;

a transmitter for automatically transmitting device information based on the detected server-assisted network devices to a second network server device;

a receiver for receiving license information from the second network server device based on the transmitted device information; and

the controller further configured to automatically install components of the software product on the network server device.

15. The network server device of claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to automatically install components of the software product on each server-assisted network device in the first set.

16. The network server device of claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to automatically installs firmware on each server-assisted network device in the first set to support the first service.

17. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of installing components of a software product on a first network server device coupled to a network, the components of the software product providing the first network server device the capability to provide a first

service to a plurality of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network, comprising:

automatically detecting with the first network server device a first set of server-assisted network devices coupled to the network that are eligible to use the first service;

automatically transmitting device information based on the detected server-assisted network devices to a second network server device;

receiving license information from the second network server device based on the transmitted device information; and

automatically installing components of the software product on the first network server device.

18. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically installing components of the software product on each server-assisted network device in the first set.

19. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

displaying an information screen identifying the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set.

20. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

displaying cost information based on the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the server-assisted network devices in the first set.

21. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving payment information identifying a means of payment for use of the software product.

22. The medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically transmitting the payment information to the second network server device.

23. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically storing at least a portion of the received license information on the first network server device.

24. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically storing at least a portion of the received license information on each server-assisted network device in the first set.

25. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically installing firmware on each server-assisted network device in the first set to support the first service.

26. The medium of claim 17, wherein each server-assisted network device in the first set is one of a personal computer, printer, scanner, and a digital sender device.

27. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving device selection information from a user identifying server-assisted network devices in the first set that are to be provided the first service.

28. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

automatically installing components of the software product on each identified server-assisted network device.

29. The medium of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:

displaying cost information based on the number of identified server-assisted network devices, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the identified server-assisted network devices.